

For millions of Americans, both those with visual disabilities and those without, the white cane is also a symbol of dignity and determination. It is a tangible reminder that those Americans who have impaired eyesight possess not only the desire but also the ability to lead full, independent, and productive lives.

Each year, during the observance of White Cane Safety Day, we renew our commitment to eliminating physical and attitudinal barriers that continue to hinder the full participation of blind persons in our society. On this White Cane Safety Day we also celebrate the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, which I signed into law on July 26, 1990. A declaration of equality for persons with disabilities, this historic legislation guarantees these citizens protection against discrimination as well as greater opportunities to participate in the mainstream of American life.

In recognition of the white cane and all that it symbolizes, the Congress, by Joint Resolution approved October 6, 1964, has authorized the President to designate October 15 of each year as "White Cane Safety Day."

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GEORGE BUSH, President of the United States of America, do hereby proclaim October 15, 1990, as White Cane Safety Day. I urge all Americans to show respect for those who carry the white cane and to honor, through appropriate ceremonies and activities, their many achievements.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this eleventh day of October, in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred and ninety, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and fifteenth.

GEORGE BUSH

Proclamation 6201 of October 11, 1990

Fire Prevention Week, 1990

*By the President of the United States of America
A Proclamation*

Each year, thousands of Americans are killed by fire. Tens of thousands more suffer from fire-related injuries. Tragically, the overwhelming majority of these fire deaths and injuries occur in places where people tend to feel most secure: their homes.

Although no one is immune to the threat of fire, our most vulnerable citizens—older Americans and children—are at greatest risk. Protecting the lives of these individuals and reducing the total number of deaths and injuries from fires in the United States require the sustained involvement and concern of all Americans and continued cooperation between the public and private sectors.

Throughout the year, numerous agencies and associations sponsor programs aimed at preventing fires that may cause death and injury. These local and national programs have conveyed the concerns of our Nation's fire service organizations to the public. They have helped people to recognize the destructive power of fire, and they have dem-

onstrated what we can do, both individually and collectively, to protect ourselves from becoming victims of fire. All of these programs carry a vital message: each of us has the ability—and, indeed, a responsibility—to protect our families, our property, and our environment.

The National Fire Protection Association, which initiated Fire Prevention Week, has announced the theme of this year's observance: "Make Your Place Firesafe: Hunt for Home Hazards." This theme underscores the importance of recognizing dangers and taking measures to eliminate them. For example, every homeowner should install and maintain household smoke detectors; keep exits clear; avoid careless smoking; and store matches and lighters out of the reach of children. Homeowners should ensure that heating equipment is in good working order, and they should keep heating appliances at least 3 feet away from anything that can burn. Combustible or flammable liquids should be stored in proper containers, away from heat or flame, and electrical cords should be checked for cracks and frays. These and other simple steps can save lives.

Sharing the concerns of the National Fire Protection Association, the United States Fire Administration is coordinating public education campaigns designed to promote private-public partnerships for fire prevention.

Our Nation owes a debt of gratitude to these organizations and to all those individuals who are committed to preventing deaths and injuries from fire, including the members of the National Fire Academy; the International Association of Fire Chiefs; the International Association of Fire Fighters; the International Association of Black Professional Fire Fighters; the Fire Service Caucus Institute; the National Volunteer Fire Council; the International Society of Fire Service Instructors; the Fire Marshals Association of North America; the State Fire Marshals Association; and all other allied organizations.

Each year, the National Fallen Fire Fighters Memorial Service, held at the National Fire Academy in Emmitsburg, Maryland, honors those men and women who have answered their last alarm as volunteer or career fire fighters. On October 14, 1990, relatives and friends of fire fighters killed in the line of duty and representatives from the Nation's fire service organizations will gather to remember and pray for these heroic individuals. This week, as we make a special effort to identify and eliminate potential fire hazards in our homes and places of business, let us gratefully remember those fire fighters who have given their lives in the line of duty.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GEORGE BUSH, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim the week beginning October 7, 1990, as Fire Prevention Week. I call upon the people of the United States to plan and participate in fire prevention activities not only this week, but throughout the year. I also ask all Americans to join me in honoring the memory of those fire fighters who have made the ultimate sacrifice to protect the lives and property of their neighbors.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this Eleventh day of October, in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred and ninety,

and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and fifteenth.

GEORGE BUSH

Editorial note: For the President's remarks of Oct. 11, 1990, on signing Proclamation 6201, see the *Weekly Compilation of Presidential Documents* [vol. 26, p. 1579].

Proclamation 6202 of October 11, 1990

National Breast Cancer Awareness Month, 1990

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

During 1990 alone, an estimated 150,000 American women will get breast cancer; some 44,000 of them are expected to die from it. Such dire projections, however, need not become a reality in the future. Today we know that deaths from breast cancer can be significantly reduced if the cancer is found in its early, more treatable stages of development. The United States Department of Health and Human Services reports that as much as a 30 percent drop in the breast cancer death rate is possible if women follow early detection guidelines.

Thirteen major public and private health organizations, including the National Cancer Institute and the American Cancer Society, have agreed upon the following screening guidelines for breast cancer: A woman between the ages of 40 and 49 should have a mammogram every 1 to 2 years, as well as an annual breast examination by her physician; after age 50, both the mammogram and the breast exam should be done annually. The National Cancer Institute and the American Cancer Society also recommend monthly breast self-exams.

Research has led to important advances in treatment for victims of breast cancer. Women whose breast cancer is detected in its early stages can be treated with much less extensive surgery than in the past. At early stages, lumpectomy plus radiation, rather than mastectomy or full removal of the breast, is an option, but lumpectomy is viable only for those women whose cancer has been detected early.

Health care professionals throughout the United States are working hard to encourage women to follow the breast cancer screening guidelines developed by the National Cancer Institute and other organizations. Many private voluntary associations and concerned individuals are also spreading the word about the importance of early detection and urging women who are age 40 and older to obtain regular screenings. Some businesses are offering screening to their employees. This month we reaffirm our determination to carry on such efforts and encourage other health care providers, employers, charitable organizations, and community groups to follow suit.

Today we have the knowledge and technology necessary to find and to treat breast cancer in its earliest stages. Let us put these resources to work to save the lives of American women.